Government to liberalise the restriction, if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The Nigerian Government has banned imports of textile items into that country.

(b) No negotiations have been carried out with the Nigerian Government.

Operation of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985

1193. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to get the stay granted by the Supreme Court of India on the operation of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 and also on the operation of the Notifications dated 11th March, 1986 reserving certain items of cloth for production on Handlooms vacated and the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): Yes, Sir. The Government has taken steps to get the stay order which was granted by Supreme Court of India vacated. The case has been part-heard by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 17th and 18th October, 1989. Government is pursuing the matter for getting an expeditious decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court through the Ministry of Law. The case is yet to be listed for hearing.

Delay in Admission to Medical Colleges

1194. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that students who were selected for admission to the medical course have wasted one full year in 1990 due to non-allotment of colleges for the selected candidates; and

(b) if so, what is the follow up action Government propose to take for regularising the admission of the medical students in various colleges in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

1195 (Transferred to 13th Sept. 1991

Effect on 15 per cent surcharge on Air-conditioners on Hotel owners

1196. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hotel industry is suffering due to the Government's proposal to levy 15 per cent surcharge on the Air Conditioner Restaurants in Delhi and other places; and

(b) whether Government have received representation from the hotel owners for lifting the surcharge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) There is a proposal in the Finance Bill for levy of 15 per cent expenditure tax on any expenditure incurred in a restaurant which is either approved by the Department of Tourism or has at least three out of four specified facilities including facility for air-conditioning. The proposed tax will be levied on expenditure incurred by a person in such a restaurant on or after 1st October, 1991. Government have received representations suggesting withdrawal of the proposal on the ground inter *alia*, that the proposed levy will affect business of the concerned restaurants.